# POPULATION TODAY

Vol 14, No. 9 September 1986

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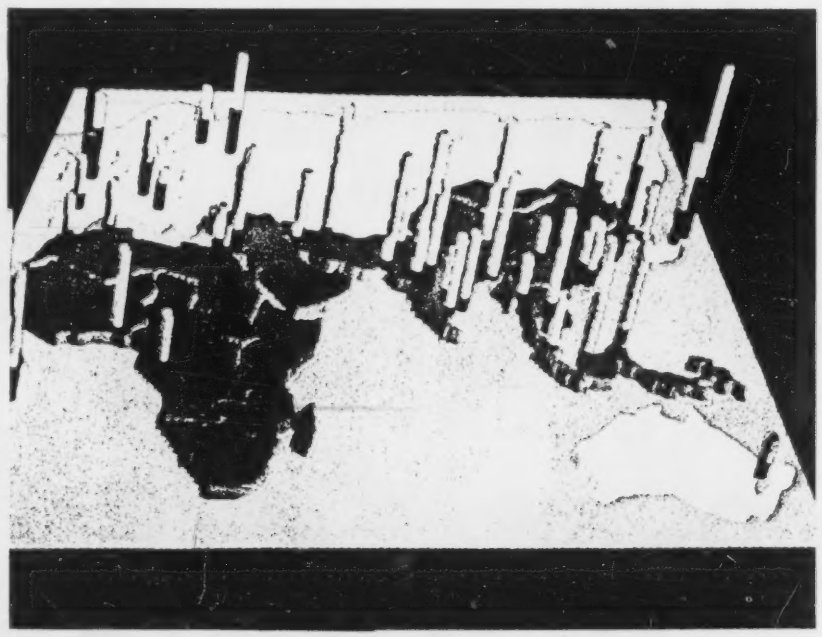
# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

To many people, job exporting means the loss of blue-collar positions as autos are assembled in Seoul, Korea, instead of Lordstown, Ohio. But as *Time* magazine recently reported, some 15,000 keypunching and other white-collar tasks have also flown out of country to the Caribbean, Ireland, and Asia. Clerical labor is cheaper overseas, transferring the electronic bits and bytes back to the U.S. is a breeze, and unlike Hyundai cars, business documents and electronic data can cross borders duty-free.

But why stop at office work? There must be a lot of writing talent among the world's half a billion English speakers, not all of whom live in the borough of Manhattan. Why pay top dollar at home if you could order out (at bargain prices, with overnight service) for a "genuine" John Updike-clone novel (*Rabbit Rerun?*) or a cultured newspaper column "as good as" William Buckley's (*Tempora Mutandor?*). Just send money to the Famous Writers Factory, Somewhere in East Asia. Better yet, Telex it.

*— Art Haupt*

# SPEAKING GRAPHICALLY



**Pole Vault.** The above map, produced on a graphic supercomputer, shows the population of major world cities as poles. The dark portion of the poles represents each city's population in 1950. The light-colored portions show population projected as of 2000. Cities with 4 million or more (as projected in 2000) are shown; the vast majority will be in the less developed world.

This map appears in *Population Images*, a 20-page booklet recently published by the UN Fund for Population Activities. To obtain a copy, contact: UNFPA Policy and Evaluation Division, 220 E. 42nd St., 17th floor, New York, N.Y. 10017, Attn: Dr. Jose Donayre, Deputy Chief.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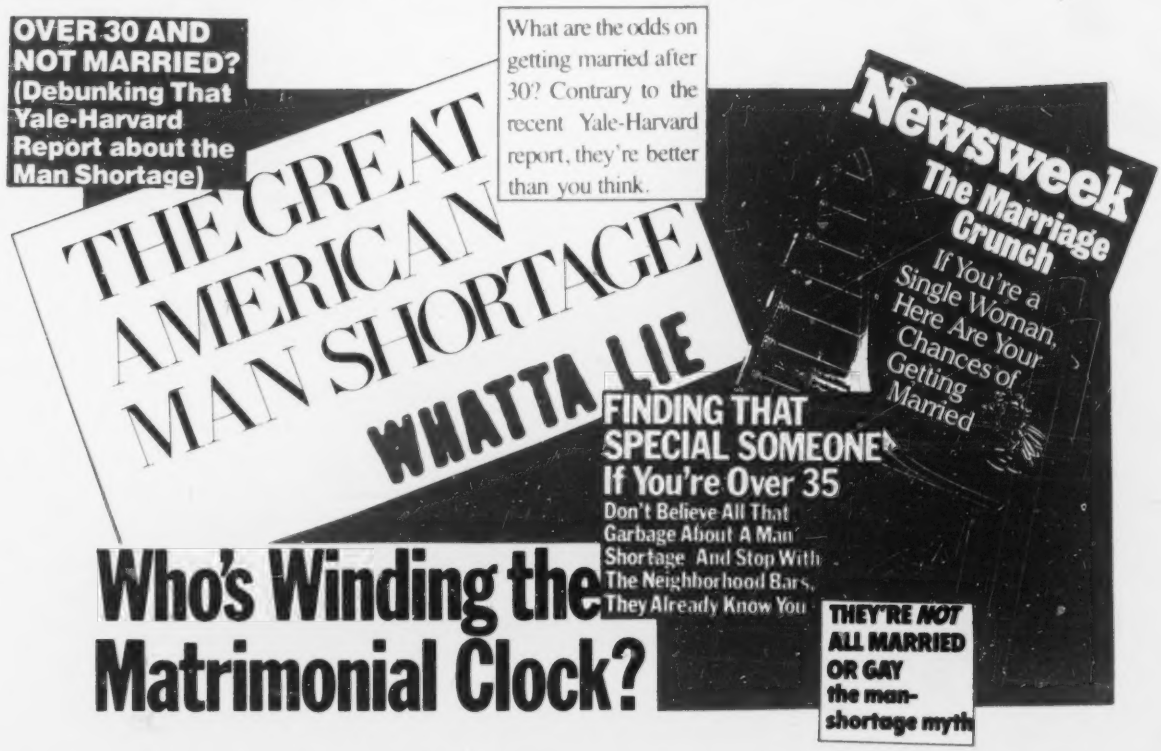
# Demography as a Media Event


OVER 30 AND NOT MARRIED? (Debunking That Yale-Harvard Report about the Man Shortage)
What are the odds on getting married after 30? Contrary to the recent Yale-Harvard report, they're better than you think.
THE GREAT AMERICAN MAN SHORTAGE
WHATTA LIE
Newsweek
The Marriage Crunch
If You're a Single Woman, Here Are Your Chances of Getting Married
FINDING THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE If You're Over 35
Don't Believe All That Garbage About A Man Shortage And Stop With The Neighborhood Bars. They Already Know You
Who's Winding the Matrimonial Clock?
THEY'RE NOT ALL MARRIED OR GAY
the man-shortage myth

The American public is given little opportunity to read about demographic studies. Media attention is often an elusive commodity for demographic researchers, but in the "publish or perish" academic world in which many research-oriented demographers thrive, the media spotlight can be an important barometer of success.

Once in a blue moon the media seize on a demographic topic and turn it into an *event*. Such was the case with a study of "Marriage Patterns in the United States," by Neil G. Bennett, David E. Bloom, and Patricia H. Craig. In this – as yet unpublished – study, Bennett and Craig, sociologists at Yale University, and Bloom, a Harvard economist, investigated why period marriage rates were declining: Was it a result of women delaying marriage or foregoing it entirely? They concluded that to a surprising extent women were, in fact, foregoing marriage.

The researchers used the Coale-McNeil marriage model to analyze survey data on age at first marriage for successive birth cohorts. Their data came from the Census Bureau's 1982 Current Population Survey.

The most widely reported of the study's conclusions seemed tailor-made for the media: The study showed that only 20 percent of college-educated women born in the mid-1950s who reach the age of 30 without marrying can expect to marry. Thirty-five-year-olds have a 5 percent chance, while the percentage for 40-year-olds is about 1 percent.

## The Media Blitz

The popular media turned these conclusions into one of those rare stories that permeates the public consciousness. The authors put out no news release on the study. Instead, the story got out last February when a reporter from a Stamford, Conn. newspaper phoned Bennett for some help interpreting some marriage statistics. He told her about the new statistics he and his colleagues had come up with, and it made the front page of the *Stamford Advocate*. The Associated Press then picked it up and it spread throughout the country. Thus, what started with an innocuous phone call turned into a *Newsweek* cover story and appearances by the authors on, among other television shows, 'Donahue" and "Good Morning America."

Almost as interesting as the television programs on which the authors appeared (such as "Hour Magazine," with guest interviewer Pia Zadora) are those the authors refused: ABC's "Nightline," and "The Dr. Ruth Show," for example. They also turned down interviews on all three networks' morning news programs, though they accepted a second offer from "Good Morning America."

The *Newsweek* story was what caused the public to sit up and take notice – and prompted millions of women to start worrying. On June 2, 1986, for the first time since the high inflation of the mid-1970s, the weekly magazine used a graph as its cover illustration. This graph showed marriage probabilities for college educated women.

A grim, underlying message of the *Newsweek* article and others like it is that women have brought on their own marital woes by foregoing marriage when they were young in favor of pursuing a career. Strike while the iron is hot, the story implicitly warned, or risk a lifetime without a husband. This conclusion does not sit well with the

*Continued on page 8*

# PRB on the Move in Mali, Mexico

Concern about population problems has deepened among national leaders in many African countries recently. A measure of this concern was last summer's Seminar on Demographic Growth and the Quality of Malian Family Life, held in Bamako, Mali, June 16-21.

The Seminar was organized by the Malian Family Planning Association (AMPPF), affiliated with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). It convened nearly 50 representatives of Malian women, youth, worker, and religious organizations.

PRB's IMPACT program provided technical support to the meeting, in the form of materials and demographic data. IMPACT staffer Pietronella van den Oever acted as a demographic resource person.

Participants at the weeklong seminar were briefed on the consequences of rapid population growth on different sectors of the economy. By seminar's end, a drafting committee prepared recommendations to the government, proposing policies to counteract population growth's negative consequences.

The meeting marked the first time Malian national religious leaders have participated in a major national family planning meeting. In a pattern that has been repeated in many less developed countries over the past decade, the participants evidenced sensitivity to the problems of rapid population increase. Islam is the predominant religion in Mali, and the Islamic leaders attending endorsed wide implementation of family planning services as well as education in the use of contraceptives. Passages from the Koran were cited to interpret the Prophet's ideas on family life, and the leaders emphasized their religion's capability for adapting to changing times.

### Meanwhile, on the U.S.-Mexico Border

In July 1986 two PRB staffers, Vice President Leon F. Bouvier and Visiting Scholar Robert Gardner, viewed firsthand the operations of the U.S. Border Patrol on the San Diego-Tijuana border. Their impressions, while anecdotal (as opposed to demographic) are worth relating here:

Patrice van de Walle

Malian mother and child.

- Observation of the border at night confirmed that the numbers of illegal commuters and/or migrants crossing from Mexico to the U.S. are (to use a statistically inexact description) "incredible."
- Enforcement is, everything considered, relatively nonviolent and good-natured, with a sort of Chutes and Ladders dynamic to it; the punishment for being captured is a free trip back to Square One. Border Patrol officers have a high morale and sense of mission. They witness the enormous migration flow every day without an undue sense of frustration, apparently seeing their mission as "keeping the lid on," i.e., providing a presence and some deterrent to what would otherwise be an ungoverned migration flow. — *A.H.*

# PAA Elects Officers

In August the Population Association of America announced the results of the 1986 PAA election. The new officers:

*President Elect*: Reynolds Farley

*First Vice President*: Larry Bumpass

*Second Vice President*: Julie DaVanzo

*Board of Directors*: Nancy Birdsall; William Butz; Jeffery Evans; Frances Kobrin Goldscheider

*Publications Committee*: Charles Hirschman

*Nominating Committee*: Tom Espenshade; Jane Menken; Tom Merrick

In keeping with PAA election policy, Farley will serve as President-Elect of the organization in 1987 and succeed Ronald D. Lee as President in 1988.

# UNFPA Aid Halted

The U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) has halted funding for the UN Fund for Population Activities. The reason: U.S. objections to China's family planning program, which, U.S. officials charge, implements coercive sterilization and abortion.

For the past year, the U.S. and the UN group had been jousting about whether UNFPA would continue to receive funding. U.S. policy bars funding of nongovernmental organizations that promote abortion in other countries. Whether UNFPA fits this definition has been a matter of some dispute.

Previously, the U.S. had contributed some 27 percent of the UN agency's budget. But in December 1985 AID withheld $10 million of the $46 million appropriated for FY 1985 and arranged for the remainder to be sequestered so that no U.S. funds reached China's program via UNFPA. In the most recent development, the $25 million appropriated for UNFPA for FY 1986 but never released will be reprogrammed for other activities.

Press reports have alleged systematic coercion in China's program, though China's government insists that abuses do not reflect official policy and have been corrected. UNFPA, for its part, supplies China with demographic and teaching assistance, and does not sponsor Chinese family planning programs.

An ironic twist to the story is that UNFPA funds made it possible to gather the data on which some of the allegations were based.

Administration officials have publicly vowed that the ban does not represent a change in U.S. support for family planning per se. The withheld funds, AID reports, will be used for other voluntary "family programming activities," divided as follows: $2.77 million in Africa; $2.69 million in Asia and the Near East; $5.74 million in Latin America and the Caribbean; and $13.78 million for family planning activities worldwide.

Because the U.S. funds cutoff had been expected, UNFPA had already raised $20 million from other donors to help make up the lost funds. — *A.H.*

# Call for Visiting Scholar Applications

Applications are invited for PRB's Visiting Scholar Award for the nine-month period beginning September 1987.

The recipient of the Award, made available under a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, will be expected to spend at least nine months at PRB's Washington, D.C., headquarters carrying out a population-policy-related project of either domestic or international focus. Priority will be given to policy-oriented projects that attempt to synthesize work on a particular topic (including the scholar's own contribution). Proposals for new research activities will also be considered.

Interested individuals should forward a brief description of their planned activities together with a curriculum vitae and a sample of recent publications no later than Dec. 15, 1986, to: Visiting Scholar Program, Population Reference Bureau, 777 14th St. NW. #800, Washington, D.C. 20005. For further information, call Tom Merrick at (202) 639-8040.

The negotiable stipend is comparable with academic salaries, and includes the cost of transportation to and from Washington, D.C. Applicants are requested to submit a brief estimate of their transportation costs and salary requirements; applications combining the fellowship with a sabbatical leave are encouraged.

Announcement of the recipient of the 1987-1988 Visiting Scholar Award will be made on Feb. 1, 1987.

# Songs Get The Message Across

*Whenever I'm by your side*
*I forget everything, I don't*
*understand reasons*
*But when I kiss your lips*
*I feel you tremble in my arms*
*And you tell me to wait,*
*That it's not time to give ourselves*
*everything*

Abstinence can be provocative. These lyrics come from the Number 1 song in Mexico last spring, sung by that country's popular musical duo Tatiana and Johnny.

The song, "Cuando Estemos Juntos [When We're Together]," sung by teens for teens, endeavors to dramatize through the medium of popular music the sexual dilemma many teenagers face. The goal: preventing teen pregnancy. The idea came from the Population Communication Services program of The Johns Hopkins University, under contract with the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID). Patrick L. Coleman, coordinator for the Hopkins program, was the innovator of this unique approach.

EMI, the giant recording company, and a Mexican promotion firm were contracted. The artists agreed to donate their proceeds to the program. And a song was launched.

So far, 150,000 copies have been sold in Mexico and the song has reached the top of the charts. It is also among the top 20 records in nearly every Spanish-speaking Latin American country, and sales in the United States are brisk.

The program is considered a standout example of applying social marketing techniques (in this case, the pop music scene) to put across a social message (in this case, sexual responsibility), and doing it through the marketplace (record sales and radio). Millions of teens have been reached with the message, at a total initial investment of $300,000. Tatiana and Johnny's next release: "Detente [Wait]." —A.H.

# SURVEY REPORT

## South Korea

South Korea has reached replacement level. A 1985 fertility survey conducted by the Korea Institute for Population and Health shows a total fertility rate (TFR) of about 2.1 lifetime children per woman. In 1966 this rate was 5.4.

The country is one of the few in the less developed world to have reached replacement (a TFR of 2.1) and the decline observed has been quite steady. Unlike the experiences of Costa Rica and Tunisia, official estimates indicate little evidence of a "slowdown" in fertility decline as lower levels were reached.

South Korea's estimated mid-1986 population of 43 million gives the country one of the highest population densities in Asia, 1,139 persons per square mile, a figure exceeded only by Bangladesh.

The survey also found a high prevalence of contraceptive use: 70.4 percent, among married women aged 15-49. It found that contraceptive use had increased steadily, and that past urban/rural differences had almost disappeared.

The acceptance of female sterilization was a marked factor in recent increase. In 1985, 40 percent of all currently married contraceptive users aged 15-44 years had been sterilized, as compared to 28.1 percent in 1982.

This survey summary was published in the March 1986 issue of the Korea Institute for Population and Health's (KIPH) *Bulletin*. —A.H.

# Planning Aging Data Needs

Two Senate bodies are examining how the 1990 Census should cover data on the U.S.'s aged population.

The Subcommittee on Energy, Nuclear Proliferation, and Government Processes (Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., chairman) and the Subcommittee on Aging (Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, chairman) are jointly holding a one-day conference for this purpose Wednesday, Nov. 12, in Washington, D.C. The conference's purpose is to provide guidance for the Census Bureau in formulating the census questionnaire, as part of the Bureau's planning for the 1990 Census, now a scant 3½ years away.

Persons who work with these data are invited to participate. The conference transcript will be published.

For further information, contact: June Walton in Sen. Cochran's office, at (202) 224-9515.

# DEMOGRAPHER'S PAGE

## Census '86: Stocktaking Down Under

**by Kevin McCracken**

On Monday, June 30, 1986, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted Australia's 11th national census of population and housing. Taken every five years, the counting exercise proceeded without major incident. Starting early 1987 a valuable sociodemographic snapshot of Australian society at mid-decade will begin to pour forth.

Census taking has a long history in Australia. The first formal census was held in the Colony of New South Wales in 1828, though regular population enumerations (known as "musters") were taken before that date. The first national population census in Australia came in 1911. The original census legislation, the Census and Statistics Act passed in 1905, provided for a census every tenth year, but censuses were interrupted by the Depression and World War II. Starting in 1961, censuses have been held every five years (a frequency made law in 1977). Australia is one of only a handful of countries that conducts censuses that often. This could come to an end, however, because the federal government has proposed – and not for the first time – a return to the ten-year pattern.

As in other nations, responses to Australian census questions will provide data essential for the informed planning of education, health care, social security, employment, housing, transport, and numerous other areas touching on the lives of all Australians. Census statistics are also indispensable to the business community for location decision making, product and service planning, marketing, and assessment of company performance.

On the political front, the census provides the basic information for making population estimates at the national, state, and local government levels. These estimates are required for the apportionment among the states of seats in the House of Representatives, the allocation of funds to each state, and the funding of local government authorities. Census data are used in the periodic redrawing of state and federal electoral boundaries as well.

Apart from these uses the census results will be dissected by an army of sociologists, economists, political scientists, demographers, geographers, and other social scientists trying to throw light on virtually every conceivable aspect of the nation's people.

Undercounts, privacy, and other enumeration perils

### Coverage and Accuracy

With the exception of diplomatic personnel, all persons residing in Australia on census night are required to complete the census form. While the goal is 100 percent enumeration, it is clearly impossible to count everybody. By international standards, however, the Australian Census does a good job of counting – the postenumeration survey (PES) of the 1981 Census found a population undercount of only 1.9 percent.

As experienced census data users know, the accuracy of census results is subject to two types of errors: response errors and processing errors. Deliberate misstatement of information is not considered by the ABS to be a major problem. Most response errors are probably unintentional and many are detected in consistency edits during data processing. A system of quality control checks is operated to minimize processing errors. As a result, no significant errors of this nature are known to have made it through to final data release to date.

The main question mark over Australian census accuracy relates to the Aboriginal population. The 1981 Census counts of Aboriginals in New South Wales and Victoria were markedly lower than the 1976 figures and claims of a substantial underenumeration have been voiced by Aboriginal groups and some researchers. The census leaves the determination of aboriginality to the individual and the ABS view is that the 1976 figures were probably overcounts reflecting Aboriginal status and opportunity at that time, and that the 1981 counts were closer to the true numbers.

### Census Content

Australia's Census and Statistics Act specifies certain topics which must be included in the census (e.g. name, sex, age, marital status, birthplace, nationality, religion [the answering of which is optional], occupation, etc.). In addition, the Act allows for "any other prescribed matters." All additional topics recommended for inclusion by the ABS have to be accepted by both Houses of Parliament. The 1986 Census contained 34 questions about persons in the household on census night, three on the household's dwelling, plus one on usual members of the household who were absent on census night. The 1986 Census included a question about people's ancestry, the first time such a question was asked.

At times the recommended topics have run into political trouble. Proposed questions on wage rates and currency in circulation were cut from the 1911 Census by Parliament. More recently, an incoming conservative government, urged on by a vocal private lobby, decided to eliminate the income question from the 1976 Census, but backed off when it found out that several million census forms had already been printed.

For both the 1981 and 1986 Censuses, the ABS invited known data users and the general public to make submissions on topic inclusion and

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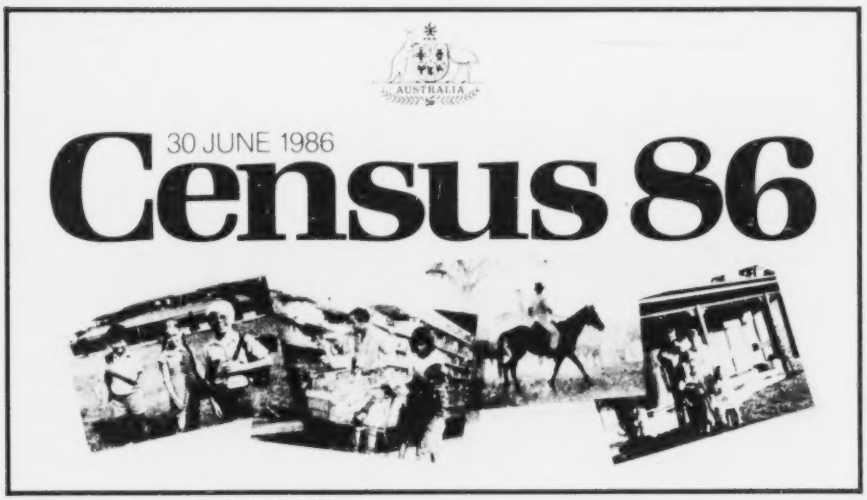



Australian census publicity flyer

exclusion. Three main criteria are used to evaluate proposed topics: the topic must be of sufficient importance, it must be suitable for inclusion in the census, and the census must be the best method of obtaining the information. Basically the concern is to strike a balance between users' needs, public acceptability, and cost considerations.

Despite the thorough evaluation procedure the occasional census question proves to be a flop. For example, concern for the disabled led to a question on handicapped people being included in the 1976 Census. However, the PES content check revealed serious deficiencies in the census responses. When later interviewed in the PES, 60 percent of the people who had reported a handicap in the census stated that they were not handicapped. In addition, many persons who claimed in both the census and the PES that they were disabled gave inconsistent information regarding the type of handicap suffered.

## Privacy and Confidentiality

As in many other Western democratic nations, the Australian public's key concerns regarding the census are those of privacy and confidentiality. What right has the government to require people to answer the census questions? And what guarantee is there that the confidentiality of the personal information obtained will be protected?

The requirement that every person in Australia be included on a census form might be considered an invasion of privacy by some, but this requirement can be justified by the greater good that will flow to society from the information gathered. This justification cuts little ice those unalterably opposed, but when the purposes of the census are explained, most Australians accept it. Also, as the ABS has stated: "The detail of the census information is less than that required of Australians for many other purposes, such as credit facilities, taxations, and social welfare."

The ABS takes pains to ensure the privacy of census participants, including the provision of the "privacy envelope" which any citizen can request in the instance that he is acquainted with the census collector at his doorstep. All census officials (permanent and temporary) are sworn to secrecy under the provisions of the Census and Statistics Act. No census worker is allowed to divulge personal census information, either to individuals or other government departments. Offenders are subject to prosecution.

Names and addresses are deleted when the data from each census form are transferred onto computer files. Once all data have been processed the census forms are destroyed. As a further safeguard, random confidentializing adjustments are made to the more detailed tabulations to avoid inadvertently releasing information which could identify a particular person.

The practice of destroying the census forms is an issue of some debate. Critics argue that it needlessly deprives future generations of invaluable historical information – in the words of one commentator, a policy of "informicide." In a report on privacy and the census commissioned by the federal government, the Australian Law Reform Commission in 1979 recommended that identified census information be retained, with access for most purposes being forbidden for 75 years. The government, however, has rejected this view, holding "there is strong evidence that many Australians want absolute confidentiality to be maintained at all costs," and all 1986 Census forms, as in the past, will be destroyed after processing.

## The Next Census?

When will the next Australian population census be held? Under normal circumstances the answer would be 1991. However, the federal government has recently instructed the ABS to consider the implications of changing from a quinquennial to a decennial census.

Proponents of the ten-year census will no doubt press the budgetary savings line and argue that the ABS' population survey program could be developed to meet the nation's data needs. However, opponents charge that the survey program would have to be expanded massively in content and sample size in any genuine attempt to fill the data gap. That aside, it is unlikely that surveys could produce sufficiently detailed and accurate information at the small area level required by many data users.

*Continued on page 8*

## Australian Census

*Continued from preceding page*

This has been the ABS stance in the past. In its submission to the Law Reform Commission's privacy inquiry it argued strongly that the statistics generated from the census could not equally be obtained from a sample of the population, and this view was accepted by the Commission. Likewise, in a recent paper outlining and justifying the topics in the 1986 Census, the ABS stated that the data needed at small area level and for small subgroups of the population can be obtained only through the census. Census data users will have to wait and see whether economics and government prodding will produce an about-face.

# Sterilization: Number 1 Method

Some 100 million couples around the world rely on surgical sterilization to prevent pregnancy as of 1985. Sterilization continues to be the world's most popular family planning method.

The highest levels are seen in Puerto Rico, where 46 percent of married women of reproductive age are protected by sterilization, and in the U.S., where the level is 39 percent, including women who have had hysterectomies. In the developing world, prevalence is high, e.g., in Panama (30 percent of reproductive-age couples protected by sterilization), in Korea (28 percent) and China (nearly 25 percent). In 1982, India's prevalence was found to be about 21 percent. In short, in many less developed countries, anywhere from one-fifth to nearly half of all couples of reproductive age are sterilized.

Far more female than male sterilizations are performed each year; only in a few countries are vasectomies anywhere near as common as tubal ligations.

The results, summarized in the Alan Guttmacher Institute's *International Family Planning Perspectives*, come from a factbook prepared by John A. Ross, Douglas H. Huber, and Suwon Hong, published in 1985 by the Association for Voluntary Surgical Contraception. – *A.H.*

## Media Event

*Continued from page 3*

the study's authors. "You can't talk about this nonmarriage trend looking at women alone," says Bennett. "The fact that they haven't married may be due to men maintaining a sexist position, demanding sacrifices of women that they would never make themselves," such as interrupting a career to raise children or relocating to another city.

As the study points out, women today are less motivated to marry than ever before. The need and desire for economic support prompted women to marry in the past – but that factor has been all but eliminated for career women today. Meanwhile, contraception, legal abortion, and relaxed social taboos on single parenthood have made childbearing a less compelling reason for marriage.

In short, the authors say, women today don't "need" marriage as they once did, though the widespread reaction to the study's conclusions indicates that marriage is an important topic to women today.

The story even made the foreign press, with articles appearing in the *Jakarta Post* and the *South China Morning Post*. Back in the U.S. *People* magazine jumped on the bandwagon with an article in their March 31 issue asking the burning question "old maids?" about glamorous, aging, unmarried female celebrities. The article carried a picture of the study's authors. The June 23 issue of *People* pictured glamorous, aging, unmarried male celebrities, branding them as "holdouts."

Just as the authors didn't expect their study to receive the media hype it did, they did not foresee the extent to which it would be misinterpreted. "My main gripe is that so much of the press has taken the angle that women who aren't married are dejected, unfulfilled human beings," says Bennett. Many of the articles "assume marriage is a measure of success" for women, he asserts.

Unhappily for the authors, this "anti-woman" attitude has been attributed to the study, which the magazines insisted upon referring to as "the Yale-Harvard" study. The result was a media backlash of sorts. A spate of articles about the study appeared in August and September issues of many women's magazines. In general, these articles sought to reassure women that hope for marriage is not lost. They range from attempts to clarify the study's findings, such as "Who Will and Who Won't Get Married: A Sensible Look at the 'Man Shortage'" which appeared in the August issue of *Self*, to "Exploding the Male-Shortage Myth: Debunking the Yale-Harvard Report ..." in the September *New Woman*. Similar articles appeared in, among other periodicals, *Ms.* ("Who's Winding the Matrimonial Clock?") and *Mademoiselle* ("The Great American Man Shortage: Whatta Lie").

## Why Marriage?

Why this study? Certainly many other demographic topics deserve equal, if not more extensive, treatment than the marriage patterns of American women. "As far as other demographic issues go, in no way did this study deserve all the attention it received," says Bennett, adding that other population-related topics, such as the recent study on population and development by the National Academy of Sciences or the world's high rates of infant mortality merit, but do not receive, national media attention. "I am glad that people are discussing the issue and that a demographic, socioeconomic study has come to the fore."

> Once in a blue moon the media seize on a demographic topic and turn it into an event.

"Marriage Patterns in the United States" serves as an example of both the triumphs and pitfalls of national attention. Whereas Bennett, Bloom, and Craig had the opportunity to enjoy some notoriety, the media spotlight was harsh. Bennett says it was fun while it lasted, but he doesn't want to be part of the media circus again very soon. "It was very exciting, but time consuming." – *J.A.*

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I regret to inform you that there were a number of factual errors and at least two important omissions in your Spotlight on Poland (*Population Today*, November 1985).

1. Since the 1815 estimate for the present territory also included non-Polish population, the statement that "the Polish population tripled during the subsequent century" is not accurate.

2. The "part of Germany" included in post-World War I Poland was in fact an area earlier captured by Prussia during partitions of Poland in the 18th century, but if you insist on mentioning Germany, one could also argue that parts of Austria and Russia were incorporated in newly established Poland.

3. According to the 1931 Census, based on mother tongue the number of ethnic Germans was 740,000 (or 2.3 percent), and Ukrainians (and Ruthenians) were estimated at 4,440,000 (or 13.9 percent). There were also 2,730,000 Jews (8.6 percent). Calculated on religion rather than mother tongue, the number of Jews was 3,114,000 (9.8 percent).

4. Poland was invaded in 1939 by both Nazi Germany (Sept. 1) and the Soviet Union (Sept. 17), and the country's losses and suffering during World War II were not only caused by the Germans.

5. The post-WWII flight of Germans included not only former Polish citizens and those who relocated in Poland during the war but also those from the areas east of the Oder-Neisse line, the post-WWII border drawn by the Potsdam conference between East Germany and Poland. The latter category was also included in the forced transfers of Germans. The total number of expellees from Poland (including those who fled earlier) counted in East and West Germany in 1946 was already much higher – 5,600,000.

6. The large influx of 3 million Poles who returned after World War II consisted almost exclusively of persons who were *forcibly removed* to the West by the Nazis. These were POWs, forced laborers, inmates of concentration camps, and even kidnapped children. Hardly any of them "fled the country during the war."

7. Two other important and massive migration flows were not mentioned. Deportations by the Soviets from their zone of occupation from 1939 to 1941 affected at least 1 million persons, and only some survivors of this deportation eventually returned. Secondly, the repopulation of newly acquired northern and western territories involved not only "repatriates" from lost territories but also some 3 million who came from central Poland (1946-1950).

*– L.A. Kosinski*
*Professor of Geography*
*University of Alberta*
*Edmonton, Canada*

# POPULATION UPDATE

### Estimated United States Population:

| | |
|---|---|
| As of April 1, 1986 | 240,952,000 |
| As of April 1, 1985 | 238,709,000 |

The above estimates include armed forces overseas and are from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 988.

### Estimated World Population:

| | |
|---|---|
| As of September 1986 | 4,956,000,000 |
| Annual growth | 83,000,000 |

Estimated by extrapolation of the mid-1986 world population given on PRB's 1986 World Population Data Sheet.

### Latest Provisional Statistics for the U.S.: April 1986

| | 12 months ending with April | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | | Rate | | | |
| Item | 1986 | 1985 | 1986 | 1985 | 1984 | 1983 |
| Live births | 3,752,000 | 3,709,000 | 15.7 | 15.7 | 15.5 | 15.9 |
| Deaths | 2,078,000 | 2,080,000 | 8.7 | 8.8 | 8.6 | 8.6 |
| Natural increase | 1,674,000 | 1,629,000 | 7.0 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 7.3 |
| Marriages | 2,429,000 | 2,468,000 | 10.2 | 10.4 | 10.4 | 10.7 |
| Divorces | 1,184,000 | 1,166,000 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 5.1 |
| Infant deaths | 39,100 | 39,400 | 10.5 | 10.6 | 10.8 | 11.1 |
| Population base (in millions) | | | 239.1 | 236.9 | 234.5 | 232.3 |

*Note.* Rates are given per 1,000 population, except for infant deaths, which are given per 1,000 live births.

*Source. Monthly Vital Statistics Report* (Vol. 35, No. 4) from the National Center for Health Statistics.

# POSITIONS/ PROFESSIONALS

**Senior Demographer,** the Population Reference Bureau, Inc., to head its Dept. of Policy Studies. Applicants should demonstrate achievement in policy-oriented, applied research on an important U.S. population issue such as immigration, aging, or population distribution, and have some experience in administration. The head of the Policy Studies Dept. reports to the President of PRB and is responsible for managing the activities of the department's staff as well as PRB's policy-oriented publications, internships, and Visiting Scholar Programs. Salary is dependent on qualifications; PRB offers generous benefits, including TIAA/CREF.

Women, members of minority groups, and handicapped persons are encouraged to apply. PRB is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer.

Applicants should send a curriculum vitae, reprints of relevant publications, and a salary history to Tom Merrick, President, Population Reference Bureau, Inc., 777 14th St. N.W., #800, Washington, D.C. 20005.

# SOFTWHERE

**POPTRAN** is a software package designed to help students learn the basics of population statistics and compare countries. Its programs include: Population Pyramids, Population Projections, Population Dynamics, Population Policy, and Determinants of Fertility.

POPTRAN runs on an Apple II+ or Apple IIe microcomputer. The package includes 9 program disks, 15 data disks, and manuals. Price: 350 British pounds (US dollar rate subject to exchange fluctuations). For more information contact: Steve Kinzett, POPTRAN, Cardiff University Population Centre, University College, P.O. Box 78, Cardiff CF1 1XL, United Kingdom. —K.C.

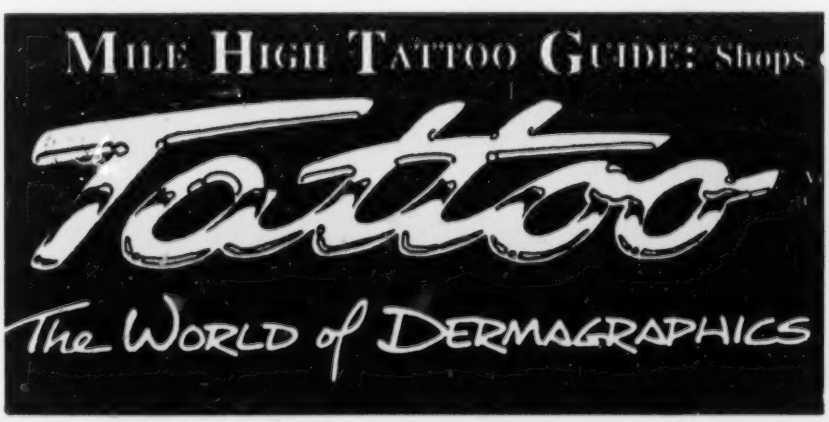
# TAKE A NUMBER

**Frisco shakes up Philly:** The population of the San Francisco metropolitan area is estimated to have passed Philadelphia's in 1985, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The "city by the sea" grew by 8.2 percent since the 1980 Census, easily snatching the coveted Number 4 spot from the "cradle of liberty," by reason of its growth of 8.2 percent since the 1980 Census, easily besting its displaced rival's 1.7 percent. The San Francisco metro area population in 1985 stood at 5,809,300 according to the Bureau's estimates, while Philadelphia's was 5,776,500. But Philly can take some solace in that Philadelphia *city* is far larger than San Francisco city, 1,647,000 to 713,000 (1984 estimates).

**Here and There...** Vietnam reports that efforts to address its "serious, alarming, and urgent" population problem have brought results; the number of Vietnamese women bearing a third child has dropped from 50 to 30 percent...on a geographic note, *Newsweek* reported that U.S. students' knowledge has deteriorated to the point where some North Carolina college students thought that Africa was north of the U.S., Cape Cod and Florida were one and the same, and Dublin, Ireland was south of Lake Erie. And, the Monroe Doctrine would be slightly bruised if the USSR were adjacent to Panama, as some thought...Singapore is worried that its policy to reduce population growth has been too successful; a long article in the *Straits Times* (Aug. 5) worried that the level of birth required for population stabilization, 50,000, was not reached in 1985, that the better educated woman has fertility 40 percent below replacement level, and that serious economic problems may result. This article also marks one of the very few times that news of a gross reproduction rate makes page-one news of any major daily... the U.S. farm population fell by 400,000 in 1985, to 5.3 million, the first major loss in a decade; further losses are expected in the Midwestern farm population, where 60 percent of farms in financial trouble are located... preliminary reports from West Germany indicate that the number of births may have leveled off for the first time since 1964 at 304,000 for the first six months of 1986 (*Frankfurter Zeitung*).

—C.H.

# ADDENDA




Published in Redondo, Calif., *Tattoo* magazine boasts that it covers "the world of dermagraphics." As you'll recall, that's Whipple's Index inked upon the inside of a desperate student's wrist.

# CURRENT READINGS

*PRB welcomes materials on population topics for possible inclusion in Current Readings. Publishers may address review copies to Book Review Editor, POPULATION TODAY, Population Reference Bureau, 777 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.*

**NATURAL DISASTERS: The Human Connection.** A Cox Newspapers Special Report, 1986. 32 pages. (Available from Cox Newspapers, P.O. Box 4689, Atlanta, Ga. 30302.)

This tabloid supplement reprints a major Cox Newspaper series on Third World developmental, environmental, and population-growth problems – news categories usually covered piecemeal, if at all, by U.S. media. Taken together, the articles make the case that the increased tempo of human disasters in recent years has been exacerbated by "acts of man – unrestrained population growth, shoddy construction, poor land use planning, overgrazing, overcultivation, deforestation – that are forcing people into areas where they are more vulnerable to calamities."

*– Art Haupt*

**OUR AGING SOCIETY: Paradox and Promise,** edited by Alan Pifer and Lydia Bronte. New York: Norton, 1986. 413 pages. $22.95 ISBN 0-393-30334-9; paper $12.95.

Following the baby boom – and partly because of it – a demographic trend inexorably reshaping U.S. society is the aging of the population. With continuing gains in life expectancy and low fertility, the proportion of persons aged 65 and over, now 12 percent, will rise to at least 20 percent in 2030 and could be as high as 36 percent in 2050, say demographers Jacob Siegel and Cynthia Taeuber in their contribution to this thoughtful collection of 18 essays, commissioned by the Carnegie Corporation's Aging Society Project. By 2030 the U.S.'s population age structure will be "rectangularized," with almost equal proportions in each five-year age group up to age 70.

Distinguishing the U.S.'s aging from that of other Western nations is the "demographic twist" of baby boom followed by baby bust, says co-editor Alan Pifer. In 2030, when all baby boomers are over 65, there will be 39 persons in that age group for every 100 in the prime working ages (20-64), double the current ratio, and providing for their support "will be as great a challenge as any the nation has ever faced."

But the book goes far beyond baby boomers to explore the impact of the aging of the American population on people and institutions. Will children become a treasured resource or a forgotten minority as their numbers and proportion shrink? What lies in store for women, who are the "kin keepers" and far outnumber men at the oldest ages? Will the elderly's needs intensify intergenerational competition and overwhelm heath-care and retirement resources? Is age 65 outdated as a marker of "old age" and retirement and should life plans and public policies be geared instead to a newly productive, option-rich "third quarter of life" from age 50 to 75?

The provocative answers to such questions demonstrate that population aging does indeed "carry the promise of a far better U.S. society or, paradoxically, a far worse one."

*– Jean van der Tak*

**THE FEAR OF POPULATION DECLINE,** by Michael Teitelbaum and Jay M. Winter. Orlando: Fla.: Academic Press, 1985. 201 pages. $34.00; $19.95 paper. ISBN 0-12-685190-5.

Fertility in many industrialized countries has dropped below replacement level in recent years, and the alleged implications of this trend toward population decline have engendered an increasingly heated debate. Teitelbaum shows that nations tend to view this trend in political terms, apparently equating power with numbers. Phrases such as "autogenicide," and "depopulation as unilateral disarmament," as well as public statements by French leaders and German pronatalist manifestos all exemplify the "fear" of the book's title.

The author concludes that ironically, by the time a demographically alarmed government feels the need to revive a nation's faltering fertility, citizens' proven ability to delay or prevent their childbearing tends to make government intervention moot.

*– Alexander von Cube*

## Books Received

**THE BIOLOGY OF HUMAN AGEING,** edited by A.H. Bittles and K.J. Collins. (Proceedings of a two-day symposium held at Chelsea College, University of London, April 1984.) Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1986. 280 pages.

**DETERMINANTS OF MORTALITY CHANGE AND DIFFERENTIALS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: The Five-Country Case Study Project.** (Population Studies, No. 94) by the Dept. of International and Economic and Social Affairs. New York: United Nations, 1986. 170 pages.

**HUNGER AND HISTORY: The Impact of Changing Food Production and Consumption Patterns on Society,** edited by Robert I. Rotberg and Theodore K. Rabb. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1985. 336 pages.

**POLISH PEOPLE AND CULTURE IN AUSTRALIA,** edited by Roland Sussex and Jerzy Zubrzycki. Canberra, Australia: The Australian National University, 1985. 223 pages.

**POPULATION GROWTH AND POLICIES IN MEGA-CITIES: Seoul.** Population Policy Paper No.4 (ST/ESA/SER.R/64), by Dept. of International Economic and Social Affairs. New York: United Nations, 1986. 56 pages.

**POPULATION STRUCTURES AND MODELS: Developments in Spatial Demography,** edited by Robert Woods and Philip Rees. Winchester, Mass.: Allen & Unwin, 1986. 417 pages. $50.00.

**YEARBOOK OF LABOR STATISTICS 1985** (45th issue), by the International Labour Office. Geneva, Switzerland: ILO, 1985. 951 pages.

# SPOTLIGHT

## NEPAL

**Population (mid-1986 estimate): 17.4 million**
**Land area: 56,827 sq. miles**
**Births per 1,000 pop. (1986 est.): 42**
**Deaths per 1,000 pop. (1986 est.): 18**
**Rate of natural increase (1986): 2.3 percent**
**Total fertility rate: 6.3 births per woman**
**Infant mortality rate (1981): 139 infant deaths per 1,000 live births**
**Life expectancy: 46 years**
**Literacy rate (1981): 23 percent**
**Urban population: 7 percent**
**Per capita income (1984): US $160**
**Major exports: rice, wheat, and other agricultural products**
**Major imports: consumer goods and construction materials**
**Capital: Kathmandu**

**by Nav Raj Kanel**

Nepal is a landlocked kingdom sandwiched between India and China. Its area is about that of Michigan. Some 83 percent of the total land area consists of high mountains and rolling hills, while the remaining 17 percent is flat land called the Terai. The altitude varies from 500 feet above sea level in the Terai to the 29,028 feet of Mt. Everest in the Himalayas.

Nepal's 1981 Census counted a population of 15.0 million. The estimated mid-1986 population is about 17.4 million. The majority of the population lives in hilly areas and in the Terai. Since Nepal is basically an agricultural country, people from the hills now tend to migrate to the Terai for more, and better, land.

While the 1981 Census showed Nepal's rate of natural increase as 2.3 percent, the country gains another 0.3 percent a year through net migration. Immigration comes almost exclusively from India over the open border between the two countries.

These immigrants also tend to settle in the Terai, causing that border region's growth rate to be much higher than the national level. (Since Nepal did not collect any data about foreign immigrants in its 1981 Census, their actual number is not known.)

Nepal is the only officially declared Hindu country in the world. About 90 percent of the population is Hindu, 5 percent Buddhist, and the rest divided into small groups of Muslims and others. There are two main ethnic categories in the Nepalese population – Indo-Nepalese (about 80 percent), and Tibeto-Nepalese (about 20 percent) representing substantial intermixture of Indo-Aryan and Mongolian racial strains. However, the country is divided into many quasi-tribal communities.

Nepali is the national and official language of Nepal. It is written in Devanagari script (as is Sanskrit). Nepali is the mother tongue of about 60 percent of the population. In addition, there are 20 other languages divided into different dialects. Nevertheless, more than 90 percent of the population can communicate in Nepali.

Agriculture is the base of the national economy. About 93 percent of the population is engaged in agriculture and allied activities. Fifty-nine percent of the total gross domestic product and 65 percent of the total exports come from this sector. The economic growth rate is only 2.7 percent per year (as of 1983). Because population is growing at 2.6 percent, per capita income growth works out to a (negligible) rate of 0.1 percent per year.

Nav Kanel

Mountainous Shringa-Gulmi, Nepal

Nepal's rapid population growth also means that its population is quite young – the median age being about 19 years, and the age-dependency ratio, 89. (The age-dependency ratio is the ratio of persons in the "dependent" ages [under 15 and over 60 years] to 100 of those in the "economically productive" ages [15-59 years.])

About 7 percent of married couples use contraceptives. A majority of the people of childbearing age have not been able to use contraceptives because they are not easily and cheaply available.

Unlike many other countries, Nepal's rural-to-rural migration is significant, with many people migrating from the hills to the Terai in order to farm (rice and wheat, principally). The level of urbanization is very low – only 7 percent. However, some cities, such as Kathmandu and Mahendranagar, are mushrooming.

Demographically as well as economically, Nepal is typical of many less developed countries with its high TFR, birth rate and death rate, high infant mortality rate and low life expectancy (life expectancy at birth is 47.5 years for males and 44.5 years for females).

The present high population growth poses many problems in Nepal – economic, social, technological, and environmental. Because of the agricultural economy and the country's rapid population growth, deforestation is occurring at an alarming rate, causing landslides in hilly areas and floods in the Terai.

Nepal has an official government policy to reduce the population growth rate with support of family planning, for development reasons as well as reasons of health and human rights. Nevertheless, family planning programs currently reach only a small proportion of the population. And if growth continues at present rates, Nepal's population by 2000 could be 24.6 million – very high for a country in its economic and geographic situation.

Nav Kanel, currently a participant at the East-West Population Institute in Honolulu, is a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) of Economics at Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal.